

## **KDHE Storage Tank Section Wins National Award**

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The KDHE BER Storage Tank Section recently received the award for Best Policy, Innovation, and Productivity, at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual State Fund Administrators Conference in Providence, RI. The participants at this event were various representatives of the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Programs from all 50 States and the Territories. This competition, sponsored by The Association of State Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Funds and the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO), is an annual event which evaluates successes of State Funds in three categories: Financial Success, Policy Innovation and Productivity, and Success with Stakeholders. All states were encouraged to submit entries in each of the three categories. A panel of peers selected by the two sponsoring organizations selected the judges for the competition.

KDHE UST Unit Chiefs were encouraged to submit entries on innovative topics that are unique to their respective programs. Seven entries were ultimately submitted in the Policy, Innovation, and Productivity category. Topics included:

- Soil Vapor Extraction and Air Sparging Utilizing Large Diameter Borings, an innovative approach to remediation in areas where conventional technologies are not conducive to successful remediation;
- Monitored Natural Attenuation, how the numerous sites in the Monitoring Unit are addressed;
- The site closure process of Kansas Risk Based Corrective Action (KRBCA);
- KDHE Remedial System Incentive Program A “Refined” Pay for Performance Idea, designed to improve system performance and increase effectiveness, based on up-time of the equipment;
- The Excavation Program, an expedited, cost effective approach for contaminated soil removal and disposal;
- Remedial Design Implementation Plan (ReDIP), a source area remediation process targeting sites with similar characteristics designed to increase the number of sites achieving remedial goals;
- USTFields/ Property Development, an expedited process developed to evaluate and remediate blighted municipal properties.

Each of the success stories were reflective of not only the hard work and dedication exemplified by the UST personnel, but also an ability to “think outside the box” to achieve goals of the Underground Storage Tank Program that were previously unattainable. The results indicate what those of us which work in the program already knew...the Kansas UST Program is one of the most innovative, productive, and successful programs in the nation.